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Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 17-28 as follows:

Suitable commercially obtainable polymers for use according to the present invention include, but are not limited to Resomer® polylactide polymers and copolymers (Boehringer Boehringer -Ingelheim) having the following product name designations: L104, L-206, L-207, L-208, L-209, L-210, L-214, R-104, R-202, R-203, R-206, R-207, R-208, G-110, 20 G-205, LR-909, RG-502, RG-502H, RG-503, RG-503H, RG-504, RG 504H, RG-505, RG-505H, RG-506, RG-508, RG-752, RG-755, RG-756 and Resomer® RG-858.

Replace the paragraph at page 18, line 29 to page 19, line 6 as follows:

Preferred surfactants include cationic, anionic, and non-ionic surfactants including, but not limited to Poloxamere® polyethylene-polypropylene glycol surfactant, Poloxamine® polyalkoxylated symmetrical block polymers of ethylene diamine surfactant, polyethylene glycol alkyl ethers, polysorbates (Tween®, Span®), sucrose esters (Sistema®, Netherlands), sucrose esters (Ryoto Sugar Ester, Tokyo), gelatins, polyvinylpyrrolidone, fatty alcohol polyglycosides, Charps, Charpso, decyl-P-D-glycopyranoside, decyl-P-D maltopyranoside, dodecyl-P-D-maltopyranoside, sodium oleate, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethoxylated fatty acid ethers (Brij®), Triton X 100 or their mixtures. Amounts effective to provide a stable, aqueous formulation will be used, usually in the range of from about 0.1% (w/v) to about 30% (wlv).

Replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 19-26 as follows:

50 mL of a 4% Pluronic® F68 surfactant (which are block copolymers based on ethylene oxide and propylene oxide) solution in water is then added as continuous phase during

agitation (10,000 rpm). After about 30 seconds of agitation, the microparticle suspension is transferred to a 500 mL two-necked flask and agitated with a magnetic stirrer. The solvent ethyl acetate is then eliminated at room temperature by applying a vacuum or by extraction with water. After 2 hours, the suspension is washed with 6 L of water or an aqueous solution and concentrated by centrifuging or filtration to the desired volume. Purification and concentration can be conducted more gently by crossflow filtration with a Sartocon mini® (Sartorius AG, Göttingen) system.